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* The compilation of data required to provide the Executive Board with the most current information has delayed the submission of the present report.

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I. Organizational matters

1. The annual session 2006 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA met from 12 to 23 June in Geneva. At the session, the Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 2006, as orally amended, and the report on the first regular session 2006 (DP/2006/15).

2. The Executive Board adopted 17 decisions, including decision 2006/25 on improving the working methods of the Executive Board, and the overview of decisions. The compendium of decisions adopted is available on the Executive Board Secretariat web site at www.undp.org/execbrd.

3. The Executive Board agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2006 and 2007:

Second regular session 2006:	11 to 15 September 2006
First regular session 2007:	19 to 26 January 2007
Annual session 2007:	12 to 22 June 2007
Second regular session 2007:	10 to 14 September 2007

Statement by the Administrator

4. In his statement to the Executive Board, the Administrator recalled the major events that have shaped the international aid environment since he took office. He highlighted the key strategic issues facing UNDP and the work of the High Level Panel on United Nations system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, noting that:

(a) UNDP has sought to play a constructive role in the main events shaping the international development environment since the 2005 World Summit, a period that has witnessed the establishment of two new United Nations bodies – the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council – and large-scale, concerted international responses in support of regions affected by natural disasters, as well as substantial increases in official development assistance (ODA) fuelled by major debt-relief operations;

(b) The benefits of rapid global economic growth have been unevenly distributed, and world leaders been unable to reach consensus on a development-oriented round of multilateral trade talks;

(c) Significant internal change has taken place within UNDP through, inter alia, the appointment of new senior staff, the strengthening of internal oversight and risk-management systems in support of greater transparency and accountability, and a review of the UNDP evaluation policy;

(d) The total income of UNDP and its associated funds has increased 17 per cent in nominal terms. The growth of non-core resources to UNDP has outpaced core growth, resulting in a sub-optimal ratio between those resources that enable UNDP to fulfill its mandate effectively and flexibly and those that are earmarked to different degrees and are thus complementary in nature; and

(e) Differing yet complementary facets of the UNDP mission have evidenced two apparent sources of tension: the need to anchor results-oriented operational activities in standard-setting normative work, allowing the former, in turn, to inform the latter; and the imperative

to provide targeted, timely support in post-crisis situations without losing sight of long-term capacity-development objectives.

The full text of the statement is available at http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/june-2006/statement-dervis-exec-20060619.en?categoryID=593043&lang=en.

5. Delegations thanked the Administrator for the informative statement and insight into the role of UNDP within the broader context of United Nations reform, noting, with regard to the latter, that the harmonization and simplification agenda was ultimately driven by the desire to improve aid effectiveness and deliver development results. Some delegations stressed the demand for closer collaboration at the country level between the various members of the United Nations family present, while others called for greater national ownership and specificity in defining the appropriate model of collaboration between United Nations entities at the country level.

6. Delegations characterized the upward trend in resources entrusted to UNDP as encouraging, while taking due note of the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources.

UNFPA segment

II. Annual report of the Executive Director
and statement by the Executive Director

7. The Executive Director began her statement by expressing condolences at the untimely passing away of Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). She went on to focus on the following key issues: the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit and the recent HIV/AIDS review meeting; achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5; reproductive health commodity security; population and development; United Nations reform; UNFPA financial resources; regionalization; and accountability. The full statement is available on the UNFPA website at http://www.unfpa.org/exbrd.

8. Delegations praised the Executive Director for her excellent and inspiring statement and for her visionary leadership. They expressed strong support and appreciation for the work of UNFPA and were pleased to note the substantial gains that UNFPA had made in 2005, including the expansion of its donor base to 172 donors. They commended UNFPA efforts to advance the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and achieve the MDGs and underscored the centrality of reproductive health and rights to poverty reduction. They appreciated the Fund's efforts to operationalize the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015. They applauded UNFPA for taking the lead in ensuring that population dynamics, reproductive health and gender were incorporated in national development strategies. They commended the Fund's leadership role in saving women's lives and protecting their health rights. They called for an increasing role for UNFPA in South-South cooperation, and in addressing international migration issues, including the feminization of migration.

9. They stressed the importance of underscoring reproductive health and HIV/AIDS linkages. They applauded the Fund's leadership in the area of HIV/AIDS and encouraged UNFPA to continue working with other agencies at global and country levels to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Global Task Team (GTT), including an appropriate division of labour among the agencies. Delegations welcomed the UNFPA global programme to enhance reproductive health commodity security (RHCS) noting that it would help to ensure more long-term and stable funding for reproductive health supplies. They were pleased to note the Fund's commitment to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, and gender-based violence. They asked what could be done to get a higher profile for UNFPA in the United Nations system-wide approach to maternal health. One delegation observed that more research should be undertaken on the social consequences of maternal mortality. Delegations commended the new Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the Fund's Campaign to End Fistula.

10. Delegations commended the work of UNFPA in emergency and humanitarian situations, including in the aftermath of the tsunami and the earthquake in Pakistan. They noted the strong contribution of UNFPA in promoting reproductive health and addressing issues of gender equality and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. They asked about the Fund's measures to strengthen human resources, partnerships and funding for humanitarian response.

11. Delegations underscored the importance of UNFPA using its comparative advantage in sector-wide approaches (SWAps), poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) and health sector reform. They encouraged UNFPA to work upstream and to take a more leading and strategic role in national processes and policy dialogue on reproductive health and rights. They commended the Fund's work in data collection and the support it provided for censuses.

12. Delegations were interested to learn that regionalization would enable UNFPA to become a stronger, more field-focused organization. They hoped that the upcoming informal briefing would provide information on regionalization plans, options, costs and benefits. While noting that regionalization efforts should be synchronized with other agencies, one delegation invited UNFPA to open a regional office in its country.

13. Delegations praised UNFPA for its active and constructive role in United Nations reform and the emphasis the Fund placed on promoting national ownership and leadership. They encouraged the Fund's engagement with the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence. They pointed out that the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) was the foundation of United Nations reform. They inquired about the experience with the joint office model. One delegation noted that there were variations in United Nations staff competencies and skills.

14. Delegations were pleased to note that in 2005 UNFPA had achieved its highest-ever level of contributions. They underscored that core resources were the bedrock of UNFPA and stressed that non-core resources should not substitute for core resources. Delegations called on donors to increase their core contributions to UNFPA. Norway announced that it would increase its contribution of regular resources to UNFPA by $12 million, i.e., 25 per cent in 2007. Sweden noted that its core contribution to UNFPA was over $50 million. Switzerland stated that it planned to do multi-year pledging.

15. Delegations expressed strong support for the Fund's commitment to results-based management and programming and called for better baseline data and the measurement of results. They welcomed the Fund's increased attention to accountability. They encouraged UNFPA to have a comprehensive and inclusive process in developing the new medium-term strategic plan (MTSP). They urged UNFPA to press for significant change at the country level and underscored the importance of attaining tangible results and visibility and avoiding duplication and fragmentation of efforts. Numerous delegations expressed appreciation for the support UNFPA had provided to their countries.

16. The Executive Director thanked the Executive Board members for their strong support and useful comments. She noted that UNFPA had been the only United Nations agency supporting the development of national demographic and social databases for development, census and surveys, particularly national population censuses. Investments in the area of data for development were crucial, both with regard to strengthening human resources and increasing the quality and coverage of data sources. UNFPA was strongly advocating for increased investments in capacity-building and priority was given to South-South initiatives. She noted that UNFPA was giving increased attention to migration and development issues. In 2006, the Fund's flagship annual publication, the State of World Population, would focus on migration and women.

17. Concerning maternal health, she noted that UNFPA had adopted a much more focused strategy to provide support to Governments to move forward in terms of maternal mortality and morbidity and was focusing on the three most effective interventions: skilled attendance at birth, family planning and emergency obstetric care. Agreeing with the need for a more coherent United Nations approach for improving maternal health, she noted that UNFPA was focusing on: (a) working within coalitions that promote maternal health, for example, the new Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; (b) working through bilateral discussions and agreements with sister agencies, i.e., strategic partnerships, for example, with WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank; (c) working through the national processes to strengthen participation in SWAps and PRSPs to promote maternal health, for example the PRSPs in African countries and the road maps to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality; (d) promoting South-South cooperation; and (e) developing the Fund's own capacity as an organization through training and the provision of policies, guidelines and knowledge assets, for example, for SWAps.

18. She noted that the High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS had provided a political platform to link sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and to further engage in dialogue with Governments. She stated that UNFPA would follow-up on national targets to meet prevention, treatment, care and support. UNFPA was actively promoting the implementation of GTT recommendations at the country level as a member of the UNAIDS co-sponsoring organizations. In many countries, the UNFPA Representative was the chair of the United Nations theme group on HIV.

19. The Executive Director stated that UNFPA would work closely with the Reproductive Health Supply Coalition, including to plan the financing of RHCS. A new Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Commodity Security, aimed at strengthening national capacities in projecting needs for reproductive health and other health commodities and planning for sustainable flow of commodities; strengthening and/or establishing national logistic management systems; and

convincing Governments to have a budget line in the Ministries of Health to allocate national resources for commodities. Concerning humanitarian assistance she noted that UNFPA had learned a great deal from its previous experience and was building a knowledge base and capacity for quick response. The Fund's rapid response had been recognized in the tsunami-affected countries and in Pakistan after the earthquake. She observed that UNFPA needed to further build its human resource capacity, both in terms of quantity and quality.

20. She stated that regionalization would help provide greater integration, efficiency, effectiveness between programme management and technical assistance, by bringing the two areas together. That should result in a more coordinated and coherent support of country offices. She underscored that UNFPA had followed a participatory process in exploring options for regionalization. UNFPA expected to present the financial implications of regionalization to the Executive Board in January 2007.

21. She thanked delegations for appreciating the Fund's active role in United Nations reform. She emphasized that UNFPA was guided by and firmly committed to the TCPR and its implementation. The emphasis of the reform and of UNFPA was improving delivery and results at the country level. She underscored that reform in the area of development was about national leadership, ownership and capacity - building. She emphasized that particular vigilance was needed to ensure that the 'One United Nations' programme was inclusive and integrated the various development agendas, including the ICPD agenda, into its strategic framework and activities. She added that UNFPA would require adequate human resources to provide substantive and sustained engagement in United Nations reform. Regarding the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, she informed that UNFPA supported the work of the Panel, especially the work on the Resident Coordinator system. UNFPA was also providing leadership in the area of business practices, building on the Executive Director's role as the Chair of the High-level Committee on Management.

22. Concerning the Joint Office Model, she noted that the first one was in Cape Verde and it had gone 'live' in January 2006. Thus, it was too early to assess impact. Nevertheless, some quick lessons could be drawn as to what would be needed for the joint office, namely: strong commitment of the national Government; strong commitment by the United Nations system; advance preparation of many detailed issues of procedures, common services, common systems, common premises, staffing and others; and assurance that all mandates were well articulated in a coherent national programme and that they were well addressed.

23. Regarding the MTSP, she stated that UNFPA was facing challenges regarding baseline data for measurement of programme impact, evidence-based reporting and attribution of results. Those issues were at the centre of the Fund's current work in developing the MTSP, 2008-2011. UNFPA was aiming to ensure that the MTSP formed the basis for the Fund's accountability for its performance. Clarity was required regarding the role UNFPA was expected to play at each level of development to support the ICPD mandate. She underscored that the challenge was to balance the Fund's role as global custodian of the ICPD and working upstream in policy dialogues with the need to demonstrate real value added on the ground where actual action took place and where change was witnessed clearly. She welcomed the guidance of the Executive Board.

24. Regarding human resources and visibility at country level, she observed that like all institutions UNFPA faced the situation of variations in staff competencies and skills. That explained the uneven visibility of UNFPA at the country level, as well as the uneven quality of programme implementation. She assured the Executive Board that the Fund was addressing this challenge. She noted that the Fund's human resource strategy was competency based and UNFPA had invested heavily in staff training. She added that upstream dialogue was not sufficient due to the very sensitive and personal issues with which UNFPA had to deal. In fact it was necessary to work at two levels: national upstream dialogues for policies, laws, resource allocations; and at the community level through local partners to mobilize the community and sensitize them to the importance of implementing the programmes being supported by the government.

III. Funding commitments to UNFPA

25. The Chief, Resource Mobilization Branch (RMB), introduced the report on funding commitments (DP/FPA/2006/3) and provided an update on the UNFPA income forecast as of 5 June 2006.

26. Delegations appreciated the lucid and informative report and were pleased to note the increase in UNFPA regular and other resources in 2005 and the increase in the number of donors to 172. They were also pleased to note the increase in multi-year pledges. They noted that these increases reflected the hard work and commitment of UNFPA and the trust and confidence placed in it by the international community. They underscored the need for additional core resources, which were the bedrock of UNFPA. Furthermore, they emphasized the need to increase the predictability of resources and stressed that non-core resources should not be a substitute for core resources.

27. Delegations agreed with the point made in the report that increased resources to UNFPA would enable it to expand its assistance to countries in meeting the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Declaration, particularly with regard to maternal health and HIV/AIDS. Noting that 94 per cent of the Fund's regular resources were provided by 17 major donors, delegations encouraged UNFPA to broaden and deepen its donor base. Some delegations expressed concern about the impact of fluctuating exchange rates on contributions. Delegations urged UNFPA to address the issue of upward trends in contributions being vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations and wondered if any policy could be developed to stabilize the situation. One delegation asked that future reports provide data on increases in real terms. One delegation asked about how UNFPA planned to increase and sustain thematic funds in the future.

28. The Chief, RMB, thanked the Executive Board members for the trust and confidence placed in UNFPA. Regarding the conversion of pledges into dollar amounts, he explained that the United Nations exchange rate applied was the one prevailing at the time the contribution was received. Given the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on contributions, he stated that it was all the more reason to indicate contributions in national currency terms. Concerning thematic funds, he noted that at present UNFPA had two thematic funds and they provided resources to address key issues for which there were insufficient core resources. He added that UNFPA would look into how to address the issue of the impact of fluctuating exchange rates.

29. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/12: Annual report of the Executive Director for 2005 and funding commitments to UNFPA.

IV. Country programmes and related matters

30. The Executive Board had before it 11 draft country programme documents; 13 programme extensions; and a report on the special programme of assistance to Myanmar. Introductory statements were made by the Deputy Executive Director (Programme) and the directors of the Africa Division; the Asia and the Pacific Division (APD); the Division for Arab States, Europe and Central Asia (DASECA); and the Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LACD).

Africa

31. Delegations appreciated that UNFPA-supported country programmes were aligned with national development frameworks and welcomed the Fund's efforts to participate in sector-wide approaches and direct budget support. Delegations noted the challenges faced by Ethiopia, including high maternal mortality. They recognized the work of UNFPA in addressing child marriage. They underscored the need to address such issues as male involvement; and the lack of reproductive health commodities in rural areas. Some delegations noted that greater emphasis should be placed on working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Ethiopia and in Sao Tome and Principe. They asked how the work of UNFPA aligned with that of other organizations and stated that the Mozambique country programme offered a good example of alignment. They commended UNFPA for supporting HIV-prevention strategies focusing on out-of-school youth in Mozambique and underlined the need for interventions that respond to local needs and social and cultural patterns. While appreciating the Fund's role in combating HIV, they expressed concern about the feminization of the HIV epidemic in Mozambique and Guinea. Noting the unavailability of contraceptives in Guinea, they commended UNFPA efforts to develop a national procurement plan.

32. Delegations appreciated the Fund's enhanced participation in joint programming. Regarding pooled funding in Mozambique, one delegation asked what procedures would be used to track which agency's funds were used for which activities. One delegation underscored the importance of utilizing a human rights approach in elaborating the country programmes. One delegation stated that in the case of programme extensions the reason for the extension should be identified. The delegation added that it was surprised that the countries whose programmes were being considered were not present and suggested that in the future their participation should be ensured.

33. The Director, Africa Division, noted that UNFPA had advocated with the concerned Governments regarding the involvement of NGOs and civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations. The Fund concurred with the need to emphasize male involvement in the Ethiopia programme. Noting the scaling up of the HIV/AIDS programme in Mozambique to address the needs of young people, she pointed out that efforts were under way to address the feminization of the epidemic. Concerning pooled funding, she stated that through the UNDAF results and resources matrix it was easy to track the activities and resources of each agency. She noted that such tracking would be more difficult under direct budget support. She indicated that she was available to address any specific issues bilaterally.

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia

34. Delegations expressed concern about the high rates of adolescent pregnancies, abortion and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Moldova, as well as about the

trafficking of women and girls; and migration issues. Regarding the programme for Egypt, they were pleased to note that UNFPA planned to strengthen partnerships with Government and civil society to combat gender-based violence. They agreed that it was important to involve Egyptian religious leaders on such issues as adolescent reproductive health care and HIV prevention. Delegations were pleased that UNFPA would work with faith-based organizations in the Syrian Arab Republic to promote reproductive health. They underscored the importance of promoting the rights of women and girls, and eliminating gender-based violence. Delegations were concerned about the rapid rise in HIV prevalence among women in Morocco. Noting that mention had not been made of the work of other bilateral and multilateral donors, they urged UNFPA to avoid duplication of programme efforts. The delegation of Morocco appreciated the support received from UNFPA and stated that the country programme had been drawn up in close consultation with the Government and other development partners.

35. Delegations noted that the Tunisia country programme was well designed. They added that it would be useful to have more recent demographic and health-related information. Delegations stated that the focus areas of the Yemen country programme were appropriate. They expressed concern regarding Yemen's high maternal mortality ratio and recommended adding neonatal care to emergency obstetric care. One delegation asked about the extent to which the human rights strategy had been used in elaborating the country programmes.

36. The Director, DASECA, took note of the useful comments and assured the Executive Board that they would be transmitted to the concerned countries. He thanked the Board members for their support. He stated that in every UNFPA-supported programme the Fund took a human rights approach. He concurred that trafficking and high rates of HIV, STIs and abortion in Moldova were issues of concern that UNFPA was working to address. He added that the Fund was also addressing migration issues. He noted that in Egypt, Morocco and other countries the Fund was indeed working with faith-based organizations and other development partners.

Asia and the Pacific

37. Delegations commended Thailand's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and its success in reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and addressing the issue of ageing. One delegation stated that it would like to work closely with UNFPA in Thailand. The delegation of Thailand expressed deep appreciation for UNFPA support, including in the aftermath of the tsunami, and stated that collaboration between Thailand and UNFPA had evolved to meet the changing needs in the areas of population and development, including maternal and child health, family planning, gender equity, migration and ageing. Delegations were pleased that the UNFPA programme in Myanmar was designed to meet the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population. They also noted the Fund's efforts to create community support groups, thereby training civil society actors to serve their communities. One delegation asked about the country's increasingly restrictive environment and its impact on UNFPA activities.

38. The Director, APD, thanked the delegations for their support and expressed appreciation for the kind words of the delegation of Thailand regarding the work of UNFPA. He welcomed the offer by another delegation to work closely with UNFPA. The UNFPA Representative in Myanmar thanked the Executive Board members for their support. He noted that he had not seen any attempt on the part of the Government to impede the activities of UNFPA. He observed that in addressing the issue of insufficient human resources in relation to midwives, who were the main beneficiaries of UNFPA-supported training, efforts were being made to coordinate training programmes more efficiently. He

added that UNFPA would present a proposal for a future programme to the Board at the Second regular session.

Latin America and the Caribbean

39. One delegation while stating that as a middle income country it was suffering from diminishing levels of assistance, asked how it might qualify for further assistance. It added that additional information should be provided in the documents on programme extensions.

40. The Director, LACD, elaborated on the UNFPA resource allocation system with its classification of countries into categories A, B, C and O based on specific criteria/indicators measuring a country's closeness to or distance from achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). She noted that category A countries were regarded as high priority countries as they were the furthest from achieving ICPD goals. Thus, group A received the largest percentage of UNFPA programme resources. She noted that Argentina did not have a country programme, however due to the economic crisis in the country, UNFPA had opened a small office in the country with a liaison officer who was channelling funds to Argentina.

41. The Executive Board took note of the following draft country programmes and the comments made thereon: Ethiopia, Guinea, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe; Egypt, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen; and Thailand. The Board also took note of the programme extensions for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda and Togo; Lebanon and Sudan; Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka; and the report on the special programme of assistance to Myanmar; and Haiti, Mexico and Nicaragua.

V. Evaluation

42. The Director, Division for Oversight Services (DOS) introduced the periodic report on evaluation (DP/FPA/2006/5).

43. Several delegations commended the positive trends in UNFPA evaluations, including the growing involvement of national counterparts in planning, monitoring and evaluation activities; and the increasing number of country offices with evaluation officers, as well as monitoring and evaluation systems. Delegations emphasized that close collaboration with national counterparts was critical and urged UNFPA to further pursue joint evaluation work with national authorities and other development partners, including with respect to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In underscoring the importance of close consultation with national Governments, delegations urged that assistance be provided to develop national evaluation capacity. In that regard, they noted the need for additional resources to disseminate evaluation information, including evaluation tools and instruments, results and lessons learned. Noting the potential for improvement, delegations hoped that compliance with UNFPA evaluation guidelines for countries ending their country programmes would increase. Delegations also encouraged UNFPA to continue to develop capacity in results-based planning and management, both at headquarters and at the country level.

44. Delegations noted the need to strengthen links between programme and evaluation activities and risk analysis models, and to maintain the respective governance roles of management, oversight and guidance. They encouraged further efforts by UNFPA in measuring impact and managing risks and hoped that these two key functions would be reflected in the forthcoming medium-term strategic plan. They pointed out that the formulation of indicators in collaboration with national counterparts would make them

more acceptable. Delegations stated that it was important to provide guidelines on how UNFPA could ensure that sexual and reproductive health indicators could be included in sector-wide approaches and other joint funding schemes. Delegations commended UNFPA for conducting a meta-type assessment of its evaluation work. They suggested that it would be interesting to have an evaluation of the evaluators. Delegations asked about concrete measures taken to follow-up on evaluation recommendations and track progress. They noted that it would be useful to have a complete list of evaluations carried out during the reporting period. Some delegations requested clarification regarding the suggestion to consolidate the evaluation and audit reports. Delegations asked when UNFPA would submit an evaluation policy to the Executive Board for review. They were also interested in learning about any planned or ongoing joint country-level evaluations with UNDG partners.

45. The Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director, External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management (ERUNAM) and the Director, DOS, thanked the Executive Board for the positive feedback and guidance. The Executive Director underscored that UNFPA was committed to being accountable to the Executive Board and its development partners and in turn looked to the Board for guidance. She stated that UNFPA had made the oversight function as independent as possible. She noted that some country offices had decided to have evaluation officers and UNFPA expected to have evaluation advisers in the regional offices to work with national partners to build capacity and to ensure that evaluation findings were integrated in the country programmes. Concurring that partnerships were essential for the work of the Fund, she pointed out that audit and evaluation findings did not simply reflect the work of the Fund but also that of its partners. Thus, it was equally important for partners to make a concerted effort to address audit and evaluation findings. She added that UNFPA was actively engaged in the United Nations system evaluation networks, along with UNDP and other partners.

46. The Deputy Executive Director (ERUNAM) emphasized the participatory nature of the evaluations and noted that UNFPA was committed to building national capacity for evaluations. She stated that UNFPA had systems in place, including the Management and Programme Committees, to review evaluation results and integrate findings into programmes and policies. She underscored that from the top down UNFPA had high commitment to evaluation. She added that the Fund was working on improving the electronic system for evaluation follow-up. She concurred on the importance of utilizing a participatory approach to select indicators. Noting the challenge involved in defining indicators for sector-wide approaches, she emphasized the need for all development partners to work together in addressing the challenge. The Director, DOS, underlined that evaluations could not be undertaken without the participation of the Fund's partners and UNFPA was very attentive to national capacity-building. He agreed that there should be enhanced sharing of evaluation tools, results and lessons learned with development partners. Regarding his suggestion that the evaluation and audit reports could be combined, he clarified that he was proposing to merge them in the framework of oversight and risk management. He noted that the risk management of UNFPA could not be confined to financial risk management. He added that the independence of audit would be assured through the Oversight Committee and United Nations Board of Auditors.

47. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/11: Evaluation (UNFPA).

UNDP segment

VI. Annual report of the Administrator

48. Noting the integration of the requests of the Executive Board expressed in its decision 2005/20, the Associate Administrator introduced the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) report on UNDP performance and results for 2005 (DP/2006/17), including its annexes containing supplementary data on UNDP performance and results, and programme expenditure by practice and service line for 2005; the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (DP/2006/17/Add.1); and the statistical annex (DP/2006/17 Add.2), reflecting progress made in 2005 against the goals and objectives of the 2004-2007 multi-year funding framework

49. The Associate Administrator highlighted the leading role of UNDP in United Nations development reform and cited the establishment of the first United Nations joint office in 2005, as well as plans to establish at least 20 such offices by the end of 2007 as an example of the reform.

50. Summarizing the report, the Associate Administrator shared illustrative examples of work undertaken by UNDP across the practice areas and noted that 97 per cent of its programme activities fell within the five practice areas and 30 service lines of the current MYFF.

51. The Associate Administrator acknowledged the centrality of partnerships with global and local stakeholders in support of the results achieved in 2005 and noted that while a high percentage of stakeholders reported having confidence in UNDP as a development partner, the organization continues to seek improvements in operational efficiency and effectiveness as well as in its systems of accountability and risk management.

52. Delegations thanked the Associate Administrator, noted with satisfaction the frankness of the report and expressed overall support for the role of UNDP in support of the MDGs. Delegations provided suggestions on measures to further improve the clarity of the annual report, including requests for greater focus on performance indicators to measure development results, impact and outcomes both at the country and at the global level. With reference to performance assessments, delegations considered the "partially achieved" category to be an inappropriate performance measure.

53. Some delegations noted that the development driver concept was not well understood and urged UNDP to design simpler service lines and targets in future. While commending UNDP for greater alignment with the five practice areas, members encouraged UNDP to devote greater attention to the gender, South-South cooperation and capacity-building for national ownership drivers of development effectiveness, and shared views on the future MYFF. One delegation urged UNDP to seek ways to economize on travel expenditure.

54. The Associate Administrator thanked delegations for their comments. He acknowledged that the selection of appropriate performance indicators in results-based management remained a challenge for development actors and that UNDP affirmed that UNDP was committed to being in the vanguard of this learning process. He assured members that due attention would be devoted to strengthening the profile of the gender, South-South cooperation and capacity-building for national ownership drivers.

55. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/22 on the MYFF: report of UNDP performance and results for 2004 and the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

VII. Funding commitments to UNDP

56. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships, introduced the paper on funding commitments and presented the overall resource situation, informing members that contributions to core resources totaled $923 million in 2005 (representing a 10 per cent nominal increase from the previous year), a quarter of which was attributable to exchange-rate fluctuations. The Assistant Administrator recognized that a growing number of donors have adhered to multi-year funding commitments; noted that uneven burden-sharing and predictability remained areas of concern; recognized the potential for increased contributions to core resources from middle-income programme countries; and drew attention to the importance of payment schedules. Assuming current exchange rates, core contributions to UNDP are expected to reach $980 million in 2006.

57. With respect to non-core resources, contributions increased from $3.3 billion to $4.1 billion. Noting that the magnitude of these contributions demanded greater clarity, the Assistant Administrator announced the introduction of new classification criteria for non-core resources in the annual review paper to be submitted to the Executive Board in September 2006. Based on the nature of the funds provided, non-core resources will be broken down into *donor bilateral non-core* ($1.2 billion in 2005); *donor multilateral funding* ($1.3 billion from entities such as the European Commission, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility) and *programme country resources* entrusted to UNDP ($1.3 billion). A fourth category, recorded in the balance sheets but not reflected as income, consists of resources managed by UNDP on behalf of the United Nations system, which totalled close to $1 billion in 2005.

58. The Assistant Administrator expressed the concern of management over the observed decline in core contributions to the associated funds and programmes, especially to the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and the decline in total resources to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme.

59. Delegations commended UNDP for the achievement of the interim MYFF targets and characterized the overall resource situation, as well as recent income trends, as remarkable. Some delegations recalled the centrality of core funding as the bedrock of UNDP resources; called on donors to continue providing financial support to UNDP in the hope that the 2006 MYFF target would be met; and further encouraged those in a position to do so to make multi-year commitments.

60. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/24 on the status of regular resources funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2006 and onwards (DP/2006/18).

VIII. Human Development Report

61. The Director, Human Development Report Office, briefed the Executive Board on the consultative process undertaken in preparation for the 2006 edition of the Human Development Report among both Members States and human development practitioners. The Director noted that the consultations had been well attended and characterized as 'very

useful', with many participants expressing strong support for the editorial independence of the report.

62. Delegations commended the Human Development Report Office for the inclusive consultative process undertaken; reaffirmed the importance of the report in promoting the human development paradigm; and called for greater involvement of Members States in the annual selection of themes.

63. The Executive Board took note of the update on Human Development Report consultations (DP/2006/19).

IX. Country programmes and related matters

64. The Associate Administrator invited delegations to review and comment on the draft country programmes submitted for consideration, noting that, in response to the challenges set forth in the Paris Declaration and the World Summit Outcome, UNDP country programmes increasingly seek to reflect enhanced responsiveness to national development priorities as well as applicable elements of United Nations reform and aid harmonization. The Associate Administrator informed members that the Administrator had approved one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Togo; for Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka; for Kuwait and Lebanon; and for Costa Rica, Haiti, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago.

65. The Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, presented the draft country programme documents for Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, presented the draft country programme for Thailand. The Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for the Arab States, presented the draft country programme documents for Egypt, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, presented the draft country programme document for the Republic of Moldova.

66. The Board commented on the draft country programmes, noting with satisfaction that they were adequately aligned with individual national priorities. UNDP undertook to convey comments to the respective country offices for consideration prior to the finalization of individual country programme documents at the first regular session 2007.

67. The Executive Board took note of the draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon. Similarly, it took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bhutan, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Trinidad and Tobago; and approved the second one-year extension of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia.

X. South-South cooperation

68. The Director, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, introduced the report on the implementation of the Third Cooperation Framework for South-South Cooperation covering 2005-2007, highlighting the achievements made at the halfway point in three domains of work: (a) ways to attain the MDGs through South-South cooperation; (b) establishment of an enabling environment for expanded South-South business

cooperation and technology exchanges for poverty reduction; and (c) fostering the sharing of Southern development solutions.

69. Delegations reiterated the importance of South-South cooperation towards achieving the MDGs, thanked the Administrator for the report under consideration, and, notwithstanding their appreciation for the reported achievements made at the halfway point of the third cooperation framework, expressed the opinion that the full potential of South-South cooperation had not been fully harnessed as a means to foster South-South self-reliance and interdependence. They requested UNDP to give due attention to the South-South cooperation development driver, and to mainstream it in the upcoming MYFF. Some delegations expressed concern over the inclusion of migrant worker remittances in the report as a source of financing for development.

70. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/26 on the report on the implementation of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/2006/21).

XI. United Nations Office for Project Services

71. The new Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) introduced the annual report for 2005, pledging his fullest commitment to UNOPS as a world-class provider of essential services. The Executive Director noted a growth in demand for UNOPS services, as evidenced by a record level of more than $1 billion in new project portfolio acquisitions; recalled the central elements of the action plan to return UNOPS to financial viability; and informed the members that the new UNOPS facilities in Copenhagen would start operating on 3 July 2006, the gradual transfer of functions and staff from New York and Geneva to take place over the following nine months. Turning to the plan of action for the UNOPS financial statements covering the biennium 2004-2005, he informed members that action had been proposed to ensure the successful resubmission of UNOPS financial statements no later than 30 November 2006, and that an accounting firm had been engaged to oversee the financial closing process.

72. Delegations welcomed the appointment of the new Executive Director of UNOPS, recognized the important steps that have been taken to render UNOPS more effective and accountable, and expressed the hope that UNOPS is on track to restore its financial viability after a prolonged and admittedly troubled period. Delegations encouraged UNOPS to continue strengthening internal audit, oversight and risk management functions; and acknowledged the important role that the organization could play as a provider of services to the United Nations family.

73. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/17 on the annual report of the Executive Director (DP/2006/22) and took note of the update on the status of the implementation of UNOPS transition measures (DP/2006/CRP.3).

XII. United Nations Capital Development Fund

74. The Executive Secretary of UNCDF presented the 2005 programme and management results of the Fund as well as the findings of the independent evaluation of its programmes. The Executive Secretary also called the attention of members to the focus of

the Fund on tangible poverty reduction initiatives undertaken exclusively in least developed countries (LDCs), including post-conflict countries; noted the high incidence of women benefiting from UNCDF programmes; emphasized the importance of national ownership in capacity building in the work of the Fund; and called on members to provide sustained financial support in light of the present shortfall in both core and non-core resources.

75. Delegations noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the UNCDF business plan, commended management for the ongoing efforts to mobilize additional resources, and expressed concern that these efforts had so far not enabled the Fund to reach either the volume targets or the desired diversification of its resource base. Delegations noted that the reliance of the Fund on a single donor for as much as 50 per cent of its core funds undermined the multilateral character of the organization. Delegations called on members in a position to do so to provide resources to UNCDF and urged UNDP management to make its resource mobilization expertise available to the Fund.

76. Members of the Board noted with satisfaction the strengthened partnership between UNDP and UNCDF, as well as the attention devoted by UNCDF programmes to the gender dimension.

77. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/15 on the results-oriented annual report of UNCDF (DP/2006/23).

XIII. United Nations Volunteers

78. In his introductory remarks the Administrator referred to the unique and important role played by the UNV programme within UNDP, and through UNDP with the United Nations system, in promoting the concept of volunteerism for development and in mobilizing volunteers.

79. The UNV Executive Coordinator presented the biennial report on UNV performance, responding to the 2004 EB decision that encouraged enhancing analysis to facilitate a good understanding of UNV activities and their impact. He introduced the UNV results framework with its three areas of distinctive contribution in support of the UNDP MYFF and the United Nations system-wide efforts towards achieving the MDGs. The three areas are: (a) enabling disadvantaged groups and communities to gain wider access to opportunities and services and to enhance the delivery of these services; (b) inclusion and participation and promoting the involvement of all stakeholders, in particular the disadvantaged, in processes that affect their well being; and (c) community mobilization through voluntary action.

80. The UNV Executive Coordinator highlighted the continuing growth of the programme to a total of close to 8,500 UNV volunteer assignments in 2005 – a 45 per cent growth compared to 2003 (the last year of the previous biennium); and to a total financial equivalent of activities of some $170 million in 2005. UNV volunteers from 165 countries served in 144 countries in 2005, working with more than 25 different United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, including 13 peacekeeping missions. The work of UNV extends well beyond the mobilization of volunteers, to include advocating globally for volunteerism and working towards its integration into development programming. UNV support to programme countries in creating a supportive environment for volunteerism, including the establishment of volunteer infrastructure, is now well established.

81. Representatives of 18 countries, on behalf of 24, commended UNV efforts in promoting volunteerism for development and shared experiences highlighting the role of the programme. They took note of the efforts to develop a business model and results framework highlighting the distinct contribution of UNV to the MDGs while ensuring alignment with the UNDP MYFF. Delegations were interested to know how UNV stays in touch with volunteers after their assignments. They encouraged UNV to focus more on gender participation, enquired about how UNV ensures the quality of assignments and a reliable monitoring and servicing during the assignments, and stated that UNV can be an important mechanism to support the building-up of national capacities through volunteerism and volunteer infrastructure.

82. Four United Nations partner organizations of UNV made statements as observers to the Executive Board: DPKO, OCHA, UNHCR and WFP, as did the IPU. They highlighted the excellent partnership they have with UNV and the valuable contribution of UNV volunteers.

XIV. United Nations Development Fund for Women

83. The Deputy Executive Director of UNIFEM introduced the report on the implementation of its multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, highlighting (a) progress towards the four outcomes of the strategic results framework, including relevant illustrative case-studies for each outcome; (b) actions undertaken in support of greater organizational effectiveness and; (c) the integrated resource framework. The Executive Director concluded the presentation with an overview of priorities for the biennium 2007-2011.

84. Delegations commended UNIFEM for its focus on four key goals: (a) reducing feminized poverty, (b) ending violence against women, (c) reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and (d) achieving gender equality in democratic governance. Some delegations provided illustrative testimonies of the impact of UNIFEM activities in their respective countries.

85. Delegations recognized with appreciation the strengthened coordination between the Fund, UN agencies, regional organizations and civil society; acknowledged the role of UNIFEM in bringing gender perspectives to harmonization and coordination processes; and stressed the importance of core funding, in spite of the record-high total income figures recorded for 2005.

86. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/21 on implementing the multi-year funding framework 2005 (DP/2006/25) and on the *Organizational Assessment: UNIFEM Past, Present and Future* (report of the Advisory Panel to the UNIFEM Consultative Committee) (DP/2006/26).

XV. Evaluation

87. The Director, Evaluation Office, introduced the annual report of the Administrator on evaluation, focusing her intervention on coverage, quality, use, key findings and partnerships in evaluation and on the proposed programme of work for the upcoming year. The Director proceeded to present the draft evaluation policy for UNDP, describing the formulation process, purpose, novel features and changes expected as a result of the policy;

and the evaluation of the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia.

88. The Associate Administrator and the Director, HIV/AIDS Group, presented the management response to the report of the Administrator on evaluation, and the evaluation of the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia, respectively.

89. Delegations noted the improvement in the quality of the evaluation function within UNDP and its use as a tool for results-based management. Members welcomed the introduction of the evaluation policy, which they considered comprehensive and thorough in scope, clear in demarcating the roles and responsibilities of the various actors, and timely.

90. Delegations urged UNDP to conduct operations at the country level in consultation with host governments and, where appropriate, to provide support to national evaluation capacities. Members urged UNDP to follow up on the recommendations of the evaluation of the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia.

91. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/19 on the annual report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/2006/27); decision 2006/20 on the evaluation policy of UNDP (DP/2006/28); and decision 2006/16 on the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia (DP/2006/29), and took note of the management response thereto (DP/2006/30)].

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

XVI. Internal audit and oversight

92. The report of UNDP on internal audit and oversight (DP/2006/31) and the UNDP management response were introduced by the Director, UNDP Office of Performance Review, and the UNDP Associate Administrator respectively. The report of UNFPA on internal audit and oversight (DP/FPA/2006/4) and the UNFPA management response were introduced by the Director, UNFPA Division for Oversight Services (DOS) and the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management (ERUNAM), respectively.The Executive Director, UNFPA, made a statement informing the Executive Board about the establishment of an independent Oversight Committee composed of five highly experienced experts who were not affiliated to the United Nations. The report of UNOPS on internal audit and oversight (DP/2006/32) and the UNOPS management response were introduced by the Director, UNDP Office of Performance Review, and the Regional Director of UNOPS for Central Asia, North Africa, Near East and Europe; respectively.

93. Delegations welcomed efforts by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to strengthen internal audit and oversight functions, as well as the introduction of risk management strategies, and expressed satisfaction in seeing that serious action had been undertaken in response to previous Executive Board recommendations in this regard. They praised the establishment of independent oversight bodies, and, while noting an improvement in the quality of audit and oversight reports, recommended the inclusion of additional analyses in future reports.

94. Concerning the issue of national execution, delegations expressed concern over the number of country offices receiving a 'deficient' audit rating and recalled the importance of developing national programme implementation capacities. They stressed the need to build national capacity in order to strengthen national execution, and to ensure that awareness was created regarding risk prevention. They pointed out that direct execution should only be resorted to in exceptional cases. Delegations indicated concern over the number of fraud allegations received by the Office of Audit Performance and Review after the introduction of its fraud hotline.

95. Some delegations requested clarification on the distinction between the more frequent cases of non-compliance with rules and regulations as opposed to the less frequent number of reported violations. Members also inquired how UNDP planned to track and monitor compliance in cases of carry-over audit recommendations.

96. UNDP recalled that the expected introduction of a formal risk-management model should not suggest that the organization had not managed risk hitherto. The Director, Office of Audit and Performance Review, informed the members that the present baseline findings would permit a more rigorous trend analysis in future audit reports; assured members that the monitoring of carry-over recommendations was being implemented; explained that the incidence of 'non-compliance' is partially associated with the learning process that followed the introduction of the Atlas system as an enterprise resource planning tool; and reported that there was documented evidence in the literature that the high number of fraud allegations reported after the introduction of the fraud hotline was a short-term phenomenon tending to occur immediately after the introduction of such tools.

UNFPA

97. Delegations welcomed UNFPA efforts to strengthen internal audit and oversight functions as well as the introduction of risk management strategies. They were pleased to note the actions outlined in the UNFPA management response, including establishment of the fraud hotline and the Oversight Committee. They were also pleased to note that UNFPA had adopted a risk model. The importance of measuring impact and managing risks was underscored and delegations hoped that that would be reflected in the Fund's upcoming medium-term strategic plan.

98. Concerning the issue of national execution (NEX), delegations emphasized that national capacity-building was one of the key principles of the development assistance provided by the United Nations system. They underscored the need to build national capacity to strengthen and encourage NEX and to ensure that awareness was created regarding risk prevention, including through training. They pointed out that direct execution should only be used in exceptional cases. It was suggested that the involvement of Supreme National Audit Institutions in the selection of external auditors should be increased, together with increasing country input on evaluation of non-governmental organizations.

99. While noting the improved quality of the reports, delegations encouraged UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to make future audit reports more analytical and to include information regarding the carry-over of unresolved audit issues. They advised the three organizations to include trend analysis and to use a common structure, harmonized terminology, and comparable risk categories. One delegation asked for an interim report in 2007 regarding efforts of the three agencies towards harmonization.

100. The Deputy Executive Director (ERUNAM) underscored the Fund's commitment to NEX and stressed that the premise of the work of UNFPA was to implement through partners. Indeed, that was the bedrock of UNFPA operations. She affirmed the importance

of national capacity-building and stated that there should be increased focus on tools and training to enhance capacity-building. The Director, DOS, noted that UNFPA had already begun discussions with UNDP regarding harmonization of the risk model. Discussions were also under way with a larger group of internal auditors from the United Nations system. He stated that enterprise risk management was relatively new for all concerned and he was at the disposal of Executive Board members for any required clarifications or explanations. Concerning NEX he emphasized that UNFPA was committed to national capacity-building. He added that, at the same time, it was also a part of the Fund's responsibility to flag risks.

101. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/13: Internal audit and oversight: UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

XVII. Programming process

102. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, presented the report on the implementation of joint programming and joint programmes by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. In his statement, the Assistant Administrator introduced general findings and conclusions pertaining to the common experience of the three organizations, as well as those pertaining exclusively to UNDP. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) presented highlights from the UNFPA experience. Noting that joint programmes contributed to attaining the International Conference on Population and Development goals and the MDGs, he stated that the areas of concentration for UNFPA joint programmes were closely linked with its mandate – for example, reproductive health, HIV prevention, youth, and data collection. He underscored that UNFPA would continue to work closely with United Nations Development Group partners to build on successes and to address outstanding challenges.

103. Delegations welcomed the joint efforts undertaken by the three organizations and noted with satisfaction the alignment of current efforts with the recommendations of both the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. A few delegations underscored that a shift towards joint programming should be dissociated from the broader United Nations reform process. Despite the limited information pertaining to financial allocations to joint programmes and the absence of an assessment on development impact, delegations were pleased to note the growing incidence of joint programmes.

104. Acknowledging that efforts on joint programmes remained a work in progress, some delegations noted that joint programmes do not constitute an end in themselves, but rather a means to achieve greater impact on development outcomes through reduced transaction costs and increased efficiency. Other delegations expressed concern over the expansion of joint programmes according to uniform models, which, they felt, could undermine national ownership and weaken the identity and comparative strengths of individual organizations.

105. The Executive Board took note of the report on the implementation experience of joint programming and joint programmes by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF since 2004 (DP/2006/33-DP/FPA/2006/11); and postponed consideration of the report on options for improving the harmonized country programme approval process (DP/2006/34-DP/FPA/2006/12).

XVIII. Field visits

Joint field visit to Indonesia

106. The Executive Board decided to postpone consideration of the report of the joint field visit to Indonesia to the Second regular session 2006.

Field visit to the United Republic of Tanzania

107. In introducing the report of the field visit to the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/2006/CRP.5 – DP/FPA/2006/CRP.3), the co-rapporteur thanked the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for their generous hospitality and for the fruitful discussions. She also thanked the United Nations Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative and the UNFPA Representative, as well as the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board secretariat for the excellent arrangements. She noted that although the United Nations was not a major donor in the country it was highly regarded and had played a key role in the country's development. She outlined the successes achieved and the challenges the country faced. She underscored that the Executive Board delegation had been pleased to note the concrete results of the work of the United Nations country team. Several Board members who had participated in the field visit took the floor to express their appreciation and agreed that the field visit had been very productive and useful. They noted that the country's national poverty eradication strategy and other frameworks, including the Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) were effectively guiding the development efforts of the United Republic of Tanzania. They added that the JAS operationalized the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and was an effective framework for managing development cooperation between the Government and its partners. Delegations emphasized the importance of continuing the practice of Executive Board field visits.

108. The Executive Board took note of the report on the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board field visit to the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/2006/CRP.5 – DP/FPA/2006/CRP.3); and postponed consideration of the joint UNDP/UNFPA field visit to Indonesia (DP/2006/CRP.4 – DP/FPA/2006/CRP.2).

XIX. The multi-year funding framework, 2008-2011

109. The Associate Administrator introduced the status report on the preparation of the MYFF, 2008-2011, recalling ongoing United Nations reform processes likely to influence the future MYFF. The Associate Administrator reassured members that the exercise would include a review of service lines and a reorganization of MDG work, while addressing national ownership and recognizing the relevance of new partnerships; and that a broad process of consultation and dialogue would be undertaken with members.

110. Delegations concurred that the recommendations of the High-level Panel introduced an element of uncertainty regarding the environment in which the MYFF would be developed, and recalled that the upcoming TCPR should likewise inform the MYFF preparation process. Nevertheless, delegations reiterated the concerns previously expressed during the discussion of the MYFF, 2004-2007, namely, the need to strengthen the profiles of the gender, South-South cooperation and capacity-building for national ownership drivers of development effectiveness.

111. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/23 on the multi-year funding framework, 2008-2011.

XX. Other matters

Briefing on the Brussels Plan of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010.

112. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) and the Director, Capacity Development Group, UNDP Bureau for Development Policy, introduced the oral briefings by UNFPA and UNDP on the support provided by their respective organizations to the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action for LDCs.

113. Delegations thanked the speakers for their presentations and requested that UNDP provide continued support to national focal points for the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action in the LDC country offices; and that, through the Resident Coordinator, it seek to promote the plan more effectively.

114. Delegations were pleased to take note of UNFPA contributions, and inquired whether UNFPA had a specific strategy for assisting the LDCs in implementing the Brussels Programme of Action. Referring to the South-South cooperation mentioned in the oral report, one delegation asked whether UNFPA would undertake other such initiatives in the future.

Other events

115. In addition, the Executive Board held the following informal consultations:

(a) **UNFPA**

UNFPA special event: panel discussion on *Population and poverty and eradication*;
Informal consultations on the medium-term strategic plan;
Informal briefing on regionalization;
Informal briefing on the UNFPA corporate strategy for humanitarian response

(b) **UNDP**

Informal briefing on the UNDP strategy for Central Asia, including the Central Asia human development report.

(c) **Joint UNDP/UNFPA**

UNDP/UNFPA joint informal briefing on the humanitarian response;
UNDP/UNFPA joint informal briefing on international migration.